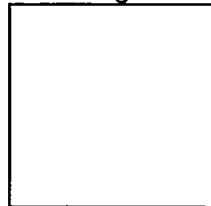


**Latimer, Becky**

**From:** Wilson, Elise  
**Sent:** Friday, April 2, 2021 8:00 AM  
**To:** Latimer, Becky; PSC\_Contact  
**Subject:** FW: [External] PSC Docket 2020-2259-E  
**Attachments:** PSC.pdf

**From:** Michael Byers <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 1, 2021 9:11 PM  
**To:** PSC\_Commissioner.Belser <[REDACTED]>  
**Cc:** PSC\_Commissioner.Williams <[REDACTED]>; PSC\_Commissioner.Caston <[REDACTED]>; PSC\_Commissioner.CWilliams <[REDACTED]>; PSC\_Commissioner.Ervin <[REDACTED]>; SC\_Commissioner.Thomas <[REDACTED]>; PSC\_Commissioner.Powers <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** [External] PSC Docket 2020-2259-E

icer72@gmail.com has attached the following document:



PSC



Dear PSC Commissioners:

Please find the attached document of my thoughts regarding Docket 2020-229-E.  
 Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

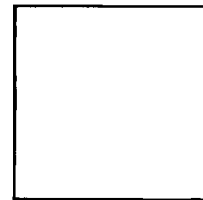
Michael Byers

Charleston, SC

Google Docs: Create and edit documents online.

Google LLC, 1600 Amphitheatre Parkway, Mountain View, CA 94043, USA

You have received this email because [REDACTED] document with you from Google Docs.



**Michael Byers**

Charleston, SC

March 26, 2021

The Public Service Commission of South Carolina  
101 Executive Center Drive, Suite 100  
Columbia, SC 29210

Re: Docket # 2020-229-E

Dear Public Service Commissioners:

Thank you for the work that you do for the people of South Carolina. And I very much appreciate that none of you were Commissioners over the past decade. I provided testimony regarding Dominion Energy of South Carolina's (DESC) proposed tariffs on it's solar generating customers. As you well know, a lot of DESC customers do not have a clear understanding of what exactly this means to them as individuals. I've tried to educate myself about this issue, but there are still items that are not clear to me. It has given me a headache trying to find information on the PSC website regarding this docket. And more appreciation of what attorneys do on a daily basis. I'm still waiting for DESC to get back to me about my questions for them. What is clear to me is that approval of the DESC solar tariff requests would not be just and reasonable to the ratepayers. As I am sure you know, the Freedom Energy Act was passed unanimously through the House and Senate then signed into law in 2019. Mr. Peter McCoy was the original sponsor of this law and he is in agreement that the solar tariffs proposed by DESC are not just and reasonable.<sup>1</sup>

*Any decisions by the commission shall be just and reasonable to the ratepayers of the electrical utility, in the public interest, consistent with PURPA and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's implementing regulations and orders, and nondiscriminatory to small power producers; and shall strive to reduce the risk placed on the using and consuming public.*

I've tried to watch this hearing online when I've been able to find the time to do so. Numerous times I've heard comments/questions from some of you regarding the Office of Regulatory Staff position on this matter. All of my attempts at finding this information has been fruitless thus far. Unfortunately, I have not had the time during the business day to call the ORS to get this information. My guess is that the link<sup>2</sup> below might provide that information if it were not a dead link. No other ratepayers were familiar with this ORS position either, but I have not heard all of the testimonies given on this docket. I've also heard repeated questions to DESC customers on their thoughts about "subsidizing solar". As I see it, the issue at hand is not about government subsidies and it is not about solar leasing programs. The issue is that a publicly traded utility monopoly --DESC-- is using misinformation to get what it

---

wants. DESC knew exactly what they were getting when they purchased SCE&G. The customers of SCE&G did not know what they were getting and I am one of those 700,000+ customers who paid every month with no choice in the matter and absolutely nothing in return. Those 700,000+ South Carolinians still have no choice but to pay their utility bill, regardless of the charges on it, or go without electricity. I conceded that there may actually be a very small number of people who do have an option of another electrical power provider. The lessons learned from SCE&G capital investment nuclear project fiasco should not be forgotten.

My wife and I decided to make a significant capital investment in our home. There are several reasons we have for making this investment and the following are a few of them: trying to help reduce dependence on fossil fuels, improving the planet for future generations, reducing the impact of extreme weather events like Texas recently faced, reducing monthly household expenses, minimizing the impact of power interruptions on my family and neighbors. Making money by selling electrical power back to the utility company is not a reason we installed solar at our home. After a near miss hurricane 2-3 years ago, and prior to our home solar purchase, my neighbors two streets over were without electricity for 3 days while the power at my home was interrupted for less than half a day. I was able to offer my portable generator for my neighbors to use during this time. And now I don't have power outages at my home when Dominion is unable to provide power; yes I installed battery storage too. Hurricane season was a big factor in deciding on our solar/battery system.

We purchased a PV solar system and upgraded the electrical service in our home (original service from 1966). Dominion did replace the line coming into the house and upgraded the meter on my home. The line replacement was because of poor condition and needed to be replaced whether or not I had a solar generating system. And I paid a fee to DESC for my interconnection. They have no additional capital investment that is directly related to my home solar system. The same pre-existing power lines are used by all DESC customers. No new equipment investment is necessary on DESC's part because I now have a power generating system. I assume the new meter cost was a part of the interconnect fee. Any excess electricity from my system goes to the closest neighbor with electricity demands. Dominion does not store my excess electricity anywhere. Any capital costs incurred by DESC are surely spread across all customers. I am unaware of any new capital investments made by DESC that are a direct result of, and exclusive to, net-metering and home/commercial alternative energy programs. Dominion only has a decrease in sales of electricity and an expense in crediting my account for the electricity they purchased from me. But they did receive goods in exchange for the credit to my account. What small credit I receive through the net metering program is a wash for DESC. They either had their own production or purchase cost to generate that power and sell it to me or it wasn't needed by me and they sold it to my neighbor. If someone can explain how DESC has increased costs that they need to pass on to all their customers because of home solar power generating systems, that would be greatly appreciated. It seems that even DESC doesn't really have a clear explanation. Dominion has shareholders who are their primary concern. The people of South Carolina are

second. The proposed solar tariffs by DESC would result in a considerable diminishment of the return on my capital investment. It would be a State approved repurposing of my capital investment into the shareholder pockets of Dominion Energy.

The federal and state laws exist that provide a tax credit for the purchase of renewable energy systems for primary and secondary homes, but excludes rental properties. It is not the duty of the PSC to interpret tax laws. There are also tax credits available for the purchase of gas, propane or oil furnaces and fans and/or boilers, water heaters (non-solar), central air conditioning, air source heat pumps, biomass stoves, and advanced main air circulating fans; for Qualified Energy Improvements such as insulation, roofs (asphalt & metal) and windows, doors & skylights<sup>3</sup>. Tax credits are also available for home builders<sup>4</sup> and commercial buildings<sup>5</sup>. If one wants to look at the tax credits for purchasing a solar energy generating system as a subsidy then one needs to look at all the other previously mentioned tax credits and deductions as subsidies as well. Again, this issue is not about solar subsidies. But I do believe that DESC would like to portray matters that way. Commissioners, in particular J. Williams and Caston, I ask that you take note of this position. I have no way to know if DESC takes advantage of the federal tax credits for commercial buildings, but my guess is they probably do take advantage of those tax deductions and many others. So please tell me who is subsidizing who in this matter?

There are many programs sponsored by DESC to reduce electricity consumption and reduce stresses on the DESC power grid. I do know that DESC offers rebates to its customers for the purchase of Energy Star rated freezers and refrigerators, AC/heat pumps and duct systems, water heaters, etc. They also have an online store selling lighting, power strips, and smart thermostats and other smart products<sup>6</sup>. Home solar is the most substantial and effective way of achieving those goals. Approval of the solar tariffs requested by DESC would result in an increase of my monthly electric bill: \$46.65 (based on my solar system size) + \$ 19.50 (just because I have home solar) = \$66.15 per month. This results in \$739.80 per year in unnecessary fees and a significant decrease in the return on my investment. As DESC is a utility monopoly, what choice do I have but to now pay a lot more money for the same amount of goods and services tomorrow that I received yesterday at a much lower cost? At least I have a choice to take my business elsewhere when I don't want to pay the unnecessary fees at a bank or phone company.

*Section 58 41 40. (A) It is the intent of the General Assembly to expand the opportunity to support solar energy and support access to solar energy options for all South Carolinians, including those who lack the income to afford the upfront investment in solar panels or those who do not own their homes or have suitable rooftops. The General Assembly encourages all electric service providers in this State to consider offering neighborhood community solar programs.*

Approval of DESC's requested tariffs will result in fewer South Carolinians investing in home solar. The ones who have already invested in home solar will have a diminished return on their investments going to the shareholders of the publicly traded monopoly, DESC. I ask that you do not approve the

proposed solar customer tariffs. And from the public notice, it reads as though DESC is going to stop working with new solar customers “ According to DESC, this proposal impacts existing net metering customers and non-participating customers as follows:

- a. The proposed tariffs are intended to comply with S.C. Code Ann. Section 58-40-20.
- b. Existing net energy metering customers have the option to take service under the proposed tariffs after May 31, 2021, ..... **(Note: This program will stop accepting new participants on May 31, 2021).**<sup>7</sup>

Please explain how this is allowable?

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Michael Byers

1. [https://www.postandcourier.com/opinion/commentary/commentary-the-6-word-s-sc-regulators-are-using-to-justify-killing-rooftop-solar-option/article\\_4f612250-87e0-11eb-9b0b-3bf4f42c4909.html](https://www.postandcourier.com/opinion/commentary/commentary-the-6-word-s-sc-regulators-are-using-to-justify-killing-rooftop-solar-option/article_4f612250-87e0-11eb-9b0b-3bf4f42c4909.html)
2. [ORS Report on the Lease of Renewable Electric Generation Facilities  
http://www.regulatorystaff.sc.gov/Documents/Electric%20and%20Gas/Solar%20Leasing%20Report-Final%20Draft%2012-29-16.pdf](http://www.regulatorystaff.sc.gov/Documents/Electric%20and%20Gas/Solar%20Leasing%20Report-Final%20Draft%2012-29-16.pdf)
3. [https://www.energystar.gov/about/federal\\_tax\\_credits/non\\_business\\_energy\\_property\\_tax\\_credits](https://www.energystar.gov/about/federal_tax_credits/non_business_energy_property_tax_credits)
4. [https://www.energystar.gov/about/federal\\_tax\\_credits/federal\\_tax\\_credit\\_archives/tax\\_credits\\_home\\_builders](https://www.energystar.gov/about/federal_tax_credits/federal_tax_credit_archives/tax_credits_home_builders)
5. [https://www.energystar.gov/about/federal\\_tax\\_credits/federal\\_tax\\_credit\\_archive/tax\\_credits\\_commercial\\_buildings](https://www.energystar.gov/about/federal_tax_credits/federal_tax_credit_archive/tax_credits_commercial_buildings)
6. <https://www.dominionenergy.com/south-carolina/save-energy>
7. <https://dms.psc.sc.gov/Attachments/Matter/63c0fe76-b4d8-46eb-bd6f-6ff432ead1d3?emci=c952ad72-5883-eb11-85aa-00155d43c992&emdi=58e67003-4b87-eb11-85aa-00155d43c992&ceid=1888407>